

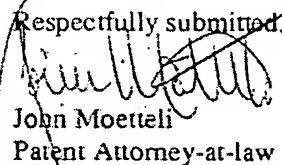
# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

1. (amended) A gas cap actuator system (10, 10') which actuates automatic closing and opening of a gas cap (26, 26', 26", 74) on a fuel spout (34, 52), the system having :
  - a. a gas cap (26, . 26', 26", 74); and
  - b. a cap actuator (16, 20, 48, 48', 72 ) actuated by a drive train powered by a non-manual power source (12, 12') via entrainment with an annular fixing element (20, 78), the fixing element interfacing and which interfaces with the gas cap (26, . 26', 26", 74) via an interface (39, 76) in a manner thereby enabling the cap actuator, when powered, to so as to be able to impart relative rotation between the gas cap and a fixing element (20, 78), thereby drawing so as to draw the cap into engagement with the fuel spout (34, 52), the interface and the gas cap being manually disengageable in a manner that, when the cap actuator is not powered, the gas cap is removable by ordinary manual rotation by so as to permit manual use at the will of the an operator.

## REMARKS

It is believed that the amendments made in this application clearly distinguish the invention from the prior art cited in the International Search Report and thus, place the claims in a form which meets the patentability requirements of the PCT. Specifically, no prior art reference provides a mechanism to automatically open or close the gas cap in which the gas cap is of traditional form and may be removed manually, in a usual manner. Further, no reference teaches a system in which a traditionally formed cap is automatically removed without having to rotate the cap. Finally, no reference describes, teaches or suggests a system in which the cap, when removed, is retained on the fuel door so as to be manually removable therefrom.

If the Examiner has questions, he is invited to contact the Undersigned by phone at 01141 71 230 1000 or fax at 01141 71 230 1001, or by email to [moetteli@patentinfo.net](mailto:moetteli@patentinfo.net). If further fees are due for this amendment, the Office is authorized to debit the deposit account of Moetteli & Associés SàRL, No. 42794.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
John Moetteli  
Patent Attorney-at-law

Enclosures: mentioned, replacement sheet

Phone: +41 71 230 1000 Fax: +41 71 230 1001  
St. Leonhardstrasse 4 9000 St. Gallen Switzerland